

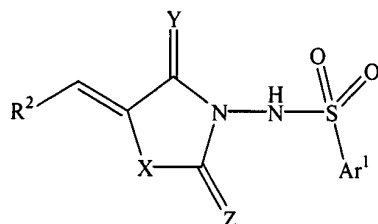
Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9-23, 26-45 and 48-50 without prejudice and amend claims 46 and 47 to read as follows. All claims pending, including those unchanged by the present amendment, are reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner.

1.-8. (Previously canceled)

9.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) A compound having the formula (VIIa):



wherein

Ar¹ is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted aryl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl;

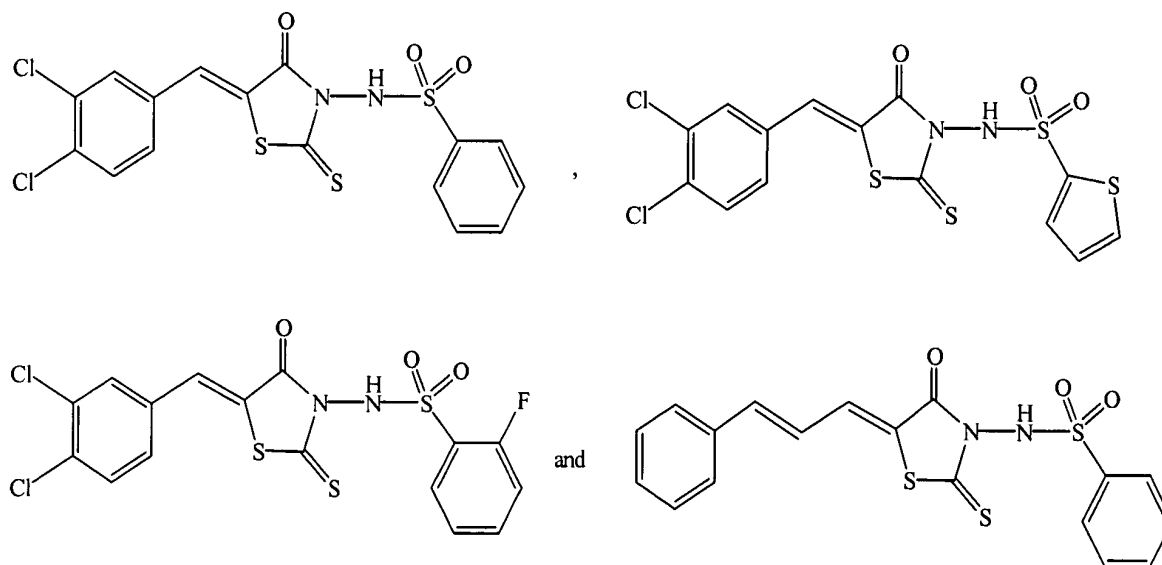
X is selected from -S-, -O- and -N(R₀)-, wherein R₀ is H or lower alkyl;

Y is O or S; and

Z is O, S or N(R_{2d}), wherein R_{2d} is H or lower alkyl, or R_{2d} and R¹ may be joined to form an imidazole or benzimidazole group; and

R² is a substituted or unsubstituted mono- or bi-heterocyclic group, a substituted or unsubstituted polycyclic ring, a substituted or unsubstituted alicyclic group having 5-8 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted biphenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted phenylether group, a substituted or unsubstituted cinnamenyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted stilbenyl group.

25. (Original) The compound of Claim 24, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of



26.-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 24 ~~any one of claims 9, 12, 24, 26, 29 and 40~~.

47. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of a viral infection, comprising
administering to a subject suffering from or at risk for said viral infection an effective amount of a compound of claim 24 ~~any one of claims 9, 12, 24, 26, 29 and 40~~.

48.-50. (Canceled)

51.-54. (Previously canceled)